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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Bernd EIKMANNNS et al
Patent App. Not known (US Nat'l phase of PCT/EP98/06210)
Filed Concurrently herewith
For METHOD FOR MICROBIAL PRODUCTION OF AMINO ACIDS
OF THE SPARTATE AND/OR GLUTAMATE FAMILY AND
AGENTS WHICH CAN BE USED IN SAID METH
Art Unit Not known
Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,
please amend as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2",

Claim 6, line 1, delete "or 5",

Claim 8, line 1, delete "or 7",

Claim 9, line 1, delete "to 8",

Claim 10, line 1, delete "to 9",

Throughout claims 11, 12, 13, 15 and 17, line 1, delete
"one of the preceding claims, insert instead -- claim 1 --,

Claim 20, line 2, delete "or 19",

Claim 21, line 2, delete "or 19",